

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY E:RASORENSEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 237174

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, FR, AG

SUBJECT: DRAFT REPLY TO FROMENT-MEURICE

REF: A. STATE 234190; B. ALGIERS 3015; C. PARIS 25595

D. ALGIERS 1892; E. OECD 25277

FOR UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON FROM SORENSON.

1. YOU WILL BY NOW HAVE RECEIVED REFTELS B, C, D, AND E REPEATED TO YOU FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND REFERENCE. SUGGEST YOU SEND REPLY ALONG FOLLOWING LINES TO OCTOBER 1 LETTER FROM FROMENT-MEURICE (REFTEL A). COMMENTS ON THE ALGERIAN POSITION ARE BASED MOSTLY ON REFTEL D. BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT WE MAKE OTHER POINTS CONTAINED IN DRAFT IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE RISK OF A DIFFICULT MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH COULD OCCUR IF WE DO NOT SETTLE AS MANY ISSUES AS POSSIBLE AT PREPCON.

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2. QUOTE: DEAR HENRI:

THANK YOU FOR THE INFORMATION AND COMMENTS IN YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 1, WHICH HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO ME AND WHICH I MUCH APPRECIATE.

WITH REGARD TO THE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY THE ALGERIANS, WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEM THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN ALGIERS AND BELIEVE THAT THEIR CONCERNS WILL PROBABLY BE FOCUSED. ON THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS OF YOUR CONSENSUS PROPOSAL:

-- LINKAGE: THEY CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS SHOULD BE HELD SOONER THAN 12 MONTHS AFTER THE FIRST MEETING.

-- TERMS OF REFERENCE: WE ARE TOLD THAT ALGERIANS MADE SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMISSIONS AND THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THESE RESERVATIONS WERE SUFFICIENTLY TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IN YOUR SECOND AIDE MEMOIRE. THEY THEREFORE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO RAISE THESE DIFFERENCES AT THE PREPCON.

SINCE, AS YOU POINT OUT, ALGERIA APPEARS NOT TO CONSIDER THE AMENDMENTS MADE TO YOUR AUGUST 16 DRAFT TO BE ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY, IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO ME TO KNOW THE EXACT NATURE OF THEIR RESERVATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME, IF FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR POSITION SHOULD COME TO MY ATTENTION, I WILL, OF COURSE, KEEP YOU INFORMED.

REGARDING THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING, I AM IN BASIC AGREEMENT WITH YOUR EXCELLENT ANALYSIS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION:

A. FOLLOWING THE MEETING SEPTEMBER 27 BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, WE HAVE DECIDED ACTIVELY TO SUPPORT PARIS AS THE CONFERENCE SITE AND HAVE SO INSTRUCTED OUR EMBASSIES. WE UNDERSTOOD AT THAT MEETING THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES AGREED CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH THE PROPOSAL FOR AN ALTERNATING CHAIRMANSHIP INVOLVING THE TWO PRINCIPAL GROUPS REPRESENTED IN THE CONFERENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS QUESTION, TOO, SHOULD BE RESOLVED AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING, AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT A CONSENSUS IS EMERGING ALONG THE LINES OF THIS CONCEPT. AGREEMENT AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING ON THIS BASIC APPROACH COULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY FORMAL ENDORSEMENT AT THE OPENING OF THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE

CHAIRMEN CHOSEN BY EACH GROUP.

B. WE BELIEVE THAT THE POINTS LISTED IN 2B RELATING TO THE ORGANIZATION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMISSIONS SHOULD BE DECIDED, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, IN THE PREPARATORY MEETING. THE COMMISSIONS WILL, OF COURSE, BE FORMALLY ESTABLISHED BY THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE TO US THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING REACH FULL AGREEMENT, ON THE BASIS OF THE SEPTEMBER 15 CONSENSUS, ON THE NUMBER OF COMMISSIONS, THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE, THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH COMMISSION, THE DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED OR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THE ATTENDANCE OF OBSERVERS. THIS AGREEMENT COULD THEN BE FORMALLY CONFIRMED AT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WHERE THE ADDITIONAL 17 COUNTRIES WILL BE REPRESENTED. BUT IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT AGREEMENTS REACHED ON THESE POINTS AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING WILL NOT BE REOPENED FOR DISCUSSION AT THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. THIS, IN OUR VIEW, IS ESSENTIAL TO ASSURING A HARMONIOUS AND SUCCESSFUL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

C. WE AGREE THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL IN THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IS A DECISION TO BE MADE AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING. WE CONTINUE TO FEEL, AS I GATHERED FROM OUR EARLIER CONVERSATIONS YOU DO, THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE AS AN OBSERVER IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY AND THAT NO OTHER OBSERVERS WOULD BE PRESENT. I HOPE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO DECIDE THIS FORMALLY AT THE PREPARATORY MEETING WITH A MINIMUM OF DISCUSSION. HOWEVER, SHOULD OTHERS PROPOSE A DIFFERENT ROLE FOR THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE A WIDER

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DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER OF OBSERVERS AT THE MINISTERIAL, INCLUDING SUCH QUESTIONS AS POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING OBSERVERS AT THIS FIRST MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE WOULD CONSTITUTE A PRECEDENT FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF OBSERVERS AT OTHER MEETINGS OF THE 27. OF COURSE, THIS WOULD IN NO WAY ALTER THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE IEA WILL BE PRESENT IN THE ENERGY COMMISSION WITH RIGHT TO SPEAK.

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR THE CLOSE COOPERATION THAT YOU HAVE EXTENDED ME.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN PARIS ON OCTOBER 13.

WITH BEST PERSONAL WISHES.

END QUOTE.

3. FYI. LANGUAGE UNDER C ABOVE IS INTENDED TO DEAL
WITH POSSIBILITY THAT SAUVAGNARGUES MAY HAVE INVITED
WALDHEIM TO REPRESENT THE U.N. AT THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER
DIALOGUE AS REPORTED IN REFTEL E. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, PETROLEUM, TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, IMPORTERS, CAT-A, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE237174
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RASORENSEN/EB/FSE:SBOSWORTH:LVS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA 19811004
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P850033-2099, N750005-0062
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751083/aaaacvuc.tel
Line Count: 177
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 STATE 234190, 75 ALGIERS 3015, 75 PARIS 25595, 75 ALGIERS 1892, 75 OECD PARIS 25277
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DRAFT REPLY TO FROMENT-MEURICE
TAGS: ENRG, FR, AG, (FROMENT-MEURICE), (ROBINSON, CHARLES W)
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006